

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Community Services



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

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Harford County Local Management Board Hosts Mentoring Programs

(Bel Air, MD) - - On September 24, 2014, the Harford County Local Management Board convened mentoring program professionals, mentors in Harford County, and area youth for a Mentoring Program Kick-Off event at the University Center in Aberdeen. The event provided a chance to discuss the needs of youth, program issues, partnerships, and creating a united campaign for mentoring recruitment.

Over 20 youth-serving organizations, including LASOS, boys 2 MEN, and the Harford County Boys and Girls Club, came together to learn about current trends in Harford County youth's risk behaviors. Results of Maryland's 2013 Youth Behavior Risk Survey indicate that Harford County's youth are above the state average in reports of suicidal ideation, incidents of bullying, drug and alcohol use, as well as youth who report texting or emailing while driving.

Twenty Magnolia Middle School eighth graders who participate in boys 2 MEN, one of the longest running and most successful mentoring programs in the county, sat side by side with youth program leaders to discuss the benefits of mentoring and to problem solve how to tackle the needs of at-risk youth.

"Our plan is to continue the dialogue with community leaders, professionals, mentors, and the youth about the data as well as the day to day problems to share resources and ideas to better serve Harford County's youth," said Sharon Lipford, deputy director of the Harford County Department of Community Services.

The network will continue to meet on a quarterly or bi-annual basis, with its next meeting planned for December. To learn more about the Mentoring Network, contact Kim Parks-Bourn, Harford County Local Management Board, at 410-638-3389, x 1306.

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"Preserving Harford's past. Promoting Harford's future."